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RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6916
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 5740
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 6549
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 8539
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 2052
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV 1263
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0731
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 2017
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1078
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 1826
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TAGS: [ETRD](#) [WTRO](#) [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [KWBG](#) [IS](#)
SUBJECT: ISRAELIS ON PA BID FOR WTO OBSERVER STATUS

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1.(SBU) The head of the Israeli Mission's trade team called Charge this afternoon to provide a readout on their consultation last week with General Council Chair (GC) Matus. He said that Matus made a pitch for an "interim solution" that would include two agenda items at the November 17 General Council meeting. One agenda item would deal with observership at the Ministerial Conference and his hope would be that this request (which has yet to be made) could be agreed. The other agenda item would address the PA's request for observer status in the GC. Under this item, Matus would expect a substantive discussion but not a decision. Matus told the Israelis that one Arab state is pushing him hard to place this on the agenda. They have also picked up that the EC might place this issue on the agenda. For their part, the Israeli's repeated their objection to the PA's observer status in the GC but they did not speak to the issue of observership at the Ministerial Conference.

2. (SBU) Our Israeli interlocutor thought it likely that his authorities could agree to observership at the Ministerial Conference but that they would need something in return. He indicated that they were hoping that this something would be that the GC request would go away for a while and that they would not have to face this again in the new year. However, it sounded like they were still considering a range of options.

SHARK